



Tempe Public Art



Joe Tyler

Waiting for a Date, 1995

Brick, flagstone, river rock,
powder-coated steel,
and lighting

Location:

230 East University Drive

Artist Website:

www.Artistic-Vision.com

Photo by: Aaron Thacker

Description: Tempe's goal with its Artist Designed Transit Shelters is to encourage people to use the public transportation by making it attractive, innovative and functional. This transit shelter has a circular bench made of brick, from the Phoenix Brickyard dating back to the 1920s, and flagstone that appears to have date palms growing from it. The trunks are composed of river rock from the nearby bed of the Salt River. Welded steel with powder coating is utilized for the palm fronds and lighting represents the dates. The flagstone seating was crafted from the neighboring historic church's original flooring, which was removed during remodeling. The title is a play on words referring to how, as passengers wait for their ride, they may meet someone new, as well as enjoy the steel palm above. Around the mid-1880s the first date palm trees were imported to the United States from the Middle East. The former University of Arizona Citrus Experimental Station, located where Arizona Mills Mall now stands, was the first place to grow dates for cultivation in the U.S.

This bus shelter is part of the Tempe Transit Shelters project which earned the City of Tempe the 1995 Valley Forward Environmental Excellence Award for Art in Public Places.

Artist biography: Joe Tyler received his bachelor's degree in Horticulture from Arizona State University, followed by his Masters of Environmental Horticulture in 1972. After years of owning a nursery and serving as the Founding Director of the Arboretum at ASU, Tyler's artistic talents revealed a new profession. For over 20 years he has been creating primarily large-scale sculptures of welded steel, often incorporating materials including wood, masonry, and glass. Much of Tyler's work has a strong botanical influence due to his background in, and passion for horticulture and the Sonoran Desert. Because he strives to incorporate a site's environment, culture and history, his artwork often looks as though it has been in place for a long time. Tyler's residential, public, and art in private development works can be seen in cities across the Southwest, as well as Germany and Japan.

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